

Nature Merit Badge at Riverbend Park

Welcome to the Nature Merit Badge program at Riverbend Park. The program is held at the Riverbend Visitor Center located at 8700 Potomac Hills Street in Great Falls.

Below is the recommended homework to be completed before the program:

We recommend that you download the merit badge worksheets from meritbadge.com and bring these worksheets to class. These worksheets help scouts organize their homework and classwork.

Requirement 1. Name three ways in which plants are important to animals. Name a plant that is important to animals that is protected in your state or region, and explain why it is at risk.

Requirement 2. Name three ways in which animals are important to plants. Name an animal that is protected in your state or region, and explain why it is at risk.

Requirement 3. Explain the term "food chain." Give an example of a four-step land food chain and a four-step water food chain.

Requirement 4.a.2. Make and set out a birdhouse OR a feeding station OR a birdbath. List what birds used it during a period of one month. This can be completed as homework before or after the program date. Evidence of work completed is required. Photographs of setting up the station and caring for the station everyday (completed by keeping a log: day, date, work completed).

Requirement 4.c.1. Show that you can recognize venomous snakes in your area.

Requirement 4.h.2. Collect and identify 5 different types of rocks from your area. If you cannot identify them at home we can help you during the program.

What to bring to the program:

- Bring your blue card (Riverbend does not have blue cards.)
- Bring your completed homework. It is OK if you cannot complete the homework before class. You can bring completed homework in at a later date for sign-off.
- Bring/wear weather appropriate clothing/outerwear. We will not go outdoors in heavy rain or thunderstorms.
- Bring a pencil and pen.
- Bring a flashlight, if the program is held after dusk.
- We recommend that you download the merit badge worksheets from meritbadge.com and bring these worksheets to class. These worksheets help scouts organize their homework and classwork.
- Bring a snack and drink or money to purchase some at the visitor center. Bring more substantial food if your program is longer than four hours.

Homework to be completed after the program:

Requirement 4.a.2., if not completed before the program date. See homework list above.

Your scout must provide evidence of completion in order to obtain blue card sign-off. Digital photographs of your scout doing the element and a picture of the completed requirement will be sufficient evidence.

Once the homework, class work and post homework are completed, all elements of the merit badge will be complete.

If your scout needs blue card sign-off after the class date, please call 703-759-9018 to arrange a time to meet with a merit badge counselor.

We're looking forward to working with your scout.

Riverbend's Merit Badge Counselors

Karen Sheffield, Ethan Kuhnenn, Tina Driskell, Chris Kopsick, Michelle Brannon, Marijke Gate

Karen Sheffield

Senior Interpreter, Riverbend Park

Fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend

703-759-9018

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